

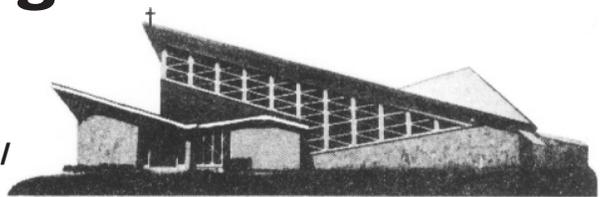
# St. John the Evangelist Church

903 Giffard Street, Whitby, Ontario L1N 2S3

Rectory Office: Ph:905-668-3676

email: [stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org](mailto:stjohntheevangelistwh@archtoronto.org)

website: [www.stjohntheevangelistwh.archtoronto.org/](http://www.stjohntheevangelistwh.archtoronto.org/)



## Pastoral Team

Rev. Francisco Fernandez Siles Pastor  
 Deacon Dan Humphries Permanent Deacon  
 Mrs. Kristine Blyth Lay Pastoral Asst.  
 Mrs. Vicki Morgan Secretary  
 Mrs. Sarah Rodrigues Youth Ministry  
 Eileen McGowan Music Director

## Support Staff

Mr. Francisco Perez Caretaker  
 Mrs. Sue McGee Bookkeeper  
 Mrs. Gail Stewart Cook/Housekeeper

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon – Fri 9 a.m. - 12 noon  
 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## Evening Reception

Tues & Wed.  
 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

<b>SUNDAY LITURGY</b> —	Saturday	5:00 p.m.	Neocatechumenal Way	Saturday 7:30pm
	Sunday	9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.		<b>EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR</b>
<b>SPANISH MASS</b> —	Sunday	2:00 p.m.		On first Friday of each month
<b>WEEKDAY MASSES</b> —	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday	8:20 a.m.		following morning mass.
	Wednesday (Rosary at 6:30 p.m.)	7:00 p.m. (OLPH Devotions)		

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** — Saturday 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. By appointment any time.

**PARISH REGISTRATION** — All parishioners especially those who live outside our parish boundaries are expected to complete a Parish Registration form and use Sunday Offertory Envelopes. This will greatly assist the Parish Team when parishioners request sacraments, funerals or letters of reference.

**N.B.** — When parishioners move you are asked to notify the parish office.

**INFANT BAPTISMS** — Two Sundays per month at 4:00 p.m. Contact the parish office at least two months in advance of the birth of their child. Parents are obliged to participate in our baptismal preparation program.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE** — The Archdiocese of Toronto requires that you contact your parish priest at least one year in advance of the planned date of your wedding and that you participate in a marriage preparation course.

**PARISH HOME CATECHISM PROGRAM** — Children attending public, private or alternative school are required to participate in this program from grade 1 - 7 in order to prepare to receive the sacraments.

**VISITATION OF THE SICK** — Please notify the Rectory when a member of your family is in the hospital.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE** — Monday 9:00 a.m. in writing or by e-mail.

Pastoral Council	Fr. Francisco Fernandez	905-668-3676
Finance Council	Paul D'Aurelio	905-665-3056

Christian Initiation of Adults - RCIA	Kristine Blyth	905-668-3676
Baptism	Fr. Francisco	905-668-3676
First Reconciliation & First Eucharist Preparation	Mrs. Kristine Blyth	905-668-3676
Confirmation Preparation	Mrs. Kristine Blyth	905-668-3676
Parish Home Catechism Program	Lorraine Thomas	905-409-1743

Altar Servers	Fr. Francisco	905-668-3676
Auxiliary Ministers of Communion	Fred Shady	905-668-1081
Choir	Eileen McGowan	905-668-0959
Feed the Hungry	Paula Campbell	905-668-2293
Home Communion	Estela & Bill Rios	905-668-3676
Lectors	Deidre Newman	905-665-6360
Liturgy of the Word with Children (JK-Gr.2) Sun. 9:00 a.m. Mass	Phyllis Pereira	905-665-5917
Ministers of Consolation	Anne Marie Yaraskavitch	905-666-3860
Neocatechumenal Way	Gail Stewart	905-668-3676
Parish Prayer Group	Klara Bari	905-668-9579
Ushers	Sharon Weslake	905-668-4817

Catholic Women's League	Lynne Childerhouse	905-431-6582
Development & Peace (CCODP)	Estela Rios	905-430-7753
Knights of Columbus #4895	Al Taylor	905-925-5382
St. Vincent de Paul Society - Help Line		905-430-6734

Catholic Cemeteries		905-668-8912
Catholic Family Services	Oshawa 905-725-3513	Ajax 905-428-1984
Rose of Durham (Young Parent Support Services)	1-800-241-3534	or 905-432-3622

<b>St. John the Evangelist School</b>	905-668-4011	<b>St. Marguerite d'Youville School</b>	905-666-9301
1103 Giffard St., Whitby L1N 2S3		250 Michael Blvd., Whitby L1N 6B1	
<b>St. Luke the Evangelist School</b>	905-665-5828	<b>All Saints Catholic Secondary School</b>	905-666-7753
55 Twin Streams Road, Whitby L1P 1N9		3001 Country Lane, Whitby L1P 1M1	
<b>Durham Catholic District School Board</b>		905-576-6150	<a href="http://www.dcdsb.ca">www.dcdsb.ca</a>

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Lent. The First Reading, from the Book of Exodus, presents a passage in which the people of Israel complained to God while they were going through the wilderness. Even though God had wonderfully freed them from slavery, had provided meat and bread for them, yet when they lacked water, they doubted God's goodness. They forgot what God has accomplished before and they grumbled thinking that God had abandoned them and that He did not even care. Despite their complaints, God provides for them water to drink. All of us experience this as well when we face events which make us suffer, we grumble and we doubt of God's goodness. However, God's love is so great that, even though we murmur, He provides for us and gives more than what we even think. It asks us to trust in God and to realize that God is so good despite our unbelief. The Second Reading, from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, offers us a beautiful teaching on the doctrine of justification. Jesus has saved us and has forgiven all our sins. It does not depend in how many good actions I may carry out, but in God's sheer gratuitousness. This redemption is something that we can experience right now when we open our hearts to Him. The Holy Spirit comes upon us and fills us with peace and joy. Let us allow the manifold grace of God to transform our hearts. The Gospel, from St. John, gives us the account of the Samaritan woman. Jesus encounters this woman when He goes to drink water at a well. He offers to this woman the living water that completely can satisfy her thirst. She wonders how she can get his water to drink. Jesus slowly brings her to believe that He is the source of life and that in Him she can find fullness of life. This woman believes and she becomes a witness to her whole village as well that Jesus is the Savior of the world. All of us are looking for fulfillment and peace in our lives. We have looked for it in different places, but only God can fulfill this desire for happiness.

Let us open our hearts to the One that offers us fullness of life even in the most difficult situations!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Benedict's Angelus on the Third Sunday of Lent (March 27, 2011)

This third Sunday of Lent is characterized by the Jesus' famous conversation with the Samaritan woman, recounted by the Evangelist John. The woman went every day to draw water from an ancient well that dated back to the Patriarch Jacob and on that day she found Jesus sitting beside the well, "wearied from his journey" (Jn 4:6). St Augustine comments: "Not for nothing was Jesus tried.... The strength of Christ created you, the weakness of Christ recreated you.... With his strength he created us, with his weakness he came to seek us out" (In Ioh. Ev., 15, 2).

Jesus' weariness, a sign of his true humanity, can be seen as a prelude to the Passion with which he brought to fulfillment the work of our redemption. In the encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, the topic of Christ's "thirst" stands out in particular. It culminated in his cry on the Cross "I thirst" (Jn 19:28). This thirst, like his weariness, had a physical basis. Yet Jesus, as St

Augustine says further, "thirsted for the faith of that woman" (In Ioh. Ev. 15,11), as he thirsted for the faith of us all.

God the Father sent him to quench our thirst for eternal life, giving us his love, but to give us this gift Jesus asks for our faith. The omnipotence of Love always respects human freedom; it knocks at the door of man's heart and waits patiently for his answer.

In the encounter with the Samaritan woman the symbol of water stands out in the foreground, alluding clearly to the sacrament of Baptism, the source of new life for faith in God's Grace. This Gospel, in fact — as I recalled in my Catechesis on Ash Wednesday — is part of the ancient journey of the catechumen's preparation for Christian Initiation, which took place at the great Easter Vigil. "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him", Jesus said, "will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (Jn 4:14).

This water represents the Holy Spirit, the "gift" par excellence that Jesus came to bring on the part of God the Father. Whoever is reborn by water and by the Holy Spirit, that is, in Baptism, enters into a real relationship with God, a filial relationship, and can worship him "in spirit and in truth" (Jn 4:23, 24), as Jesus went on to reveal to the Samaritan woman. Thanks to the meeting with Jesus Christ and to the gift of the Holy Spirit, the human being's faith attains fulfillment, as a response to the fullness of God's revelation.

Each one of us can identify himself with the Samaritan woman: Jesus is waiting for us, especially in this Season of Lent, to speak to our hearts, to my heart. Let us pause a moment in silence, in our room or in a church or in a separate place. Let us listen to his voice which tells us "If you knew the gift of God...". May the Virgin Mary help us not to miss this appointment, on which our true happiness depends.

Lastly, my thoughts turn to the authorities and citizens of the Middle East, where in the past few days various episodes of violence have occurred, so that there too priority may be given to the way of dialogue and reconciliation in the search for a just and fraternal coexistence.

 ShareLife

Goal \$178,500

### **Through ShareLife, you ensured Tyler didn't face his hardships alone**

Many of our brothers and sisters are struggling in silence. Because of your support of ShareLife, Tyler didn't face his hardships alone. When he first came to counselling at a Catholic Charities agency you support through ShareLife, he was withdrawn and guarded—reluctant to open up. But slowly, with support, he began to share the weight he carried: the trauma of losing his father to a drug overdose and the pain of repeated loss in his family life. Over time, Tyler found the courage to face his story, make sense of his struggles, and take steps toward healing. Today, he says counselling has become something he looks forward to—even when it's hard—because it's helping him grow. Through ShareLife, you help people in our community access mental health services. You offer healing to those who feel forgotten and hope to those who are hurting.

**The first ShareLife Sunday collection is on March 21/22.** Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate).

MARCH 8, 2026



**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul**  
**Will you respond to the Gospel?**

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me." **Matthew 25:35***

*"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." – **Matthew 25:40***

Have you ever thought what the incredible satisfaction of serving our neighbours in need in west Whitby, brings to your life?

As members of St. Vincent de Paul, we bring non-perishable food and food vouchers to members of our community in need of assistance. "Our clients are always grateful for our assistance. It's very rewarding to me personally. I know it's a hand-up and not a hand-out", said one member of our conference.

As food costs rise, it poses a significant challenge for those on fixed incomes. We, at St. John's Conference are fortunate for the generosity of our donors to support those in need in this way.

However, our membership group needs as much support, with new members. Our conference has dwindled in membership due to retirement for years of service, primarily and other commitments.

If you can offer your service and want more information, we'd love to speak with you. Please contact Vicki at the Parish Office 905-668-3676.



**RESCHEDULED!**

**Social Sunday on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026**, following the 9:00 am and 11:00 am Masses.

*Hosted by Development & Peace and the Home Communion Ministry, in the Parish Center. All are welcome!*



**St. Patrick's Pub Night**

Hosted by Knights of Columbus Council 4895  
101 Brock St. N, Whitby

Saturday, March 14, 2026 Council 4895

Doors Open 6:30 pm, Dancing at 7:30 pm Prizes-Snacks-  
Light Buffet-Cash Bar Tickets \$30.00 Per Person

Contact Chris Leahy

[cdleahy@gmail.com](mailto:cdleahy@gmail.com) 905-706-9520

Prayer Group meets every Wednesday at 1pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome.

**We are currently looking for someone to assist leading the Prayer Group. Please contact Klara 905-668-9579.**



**Stations of the Cross Fridays**  
**in Lent**

**Stations of the Cross start 6:30pm in English,  
Followed by Mass at 7:00pm Stations of the Cross in Spanish at 7:30pm**

Mar 13 Praying the Psalms with Jesus

Mar 20 Development & Peace

Mar 27 Mary's Way of the Cross

Apr 3 Good Friday presented by Youth

**Prayers for the Sick in our Parish**

*Sylvie Forte; Andrew Dundas; Doreen Pereira; Anna Lalla; Jack McCabe; Ian Hamilton; Gina Mancuso; John Morris; Christiane Prior; Fritz Jansen; Jill Morris Jones; Shiva Dean, Blanca Arias, Frank Verwey, Caroline Contreras, Mary Patrick Eastman.*



**Masses For The Week**

**Sat Mar 7 – 5:00pm**

**+John Handrigan**

*req. by The Hannon Family*

**Mon Mar 9 – 8:20am**

**+James & Evelyn & John Mullaney**

*req. by Dorothy Bravo*

**Tues Mar 10 – 8:20am**

**+Rev. Richard Veltri & +Rev. Joseph Kelly**

*req. by Nina Veltri & Family*

**Wed Mar 11 – 7pm**

**+Maria Costa**

*req. by Mario Costa*

**+Edward Debosky**

*req. by The McMahon Family*

**+Phyllis Margaret Netto**

*req. by Tracey Dennis*

**+Carol Wardell & Michael Connolly**

*req. by Nina Veltri & Family*

**+Alvin Schieck**

*req. by Aaron Wood*

**Thur Mar 12 – 8:20am**

**+Raphael Bravo Florez & +Amelia Florez Barrera**

*req. by Dorothy Bravo*

**Fri. Mar 13 – 7:00pm**

**In Thanksgiving**

*req. by Edna Gonzales*

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASSES**

Monday nights, April 6, 2026 to May 11, 2026 from 7pm to 9pm. Call 668-3676 to register. Cost is \$300 per couple.

**SENIORS' RETREAT**

**Thursday May 21, 2026 10:00-3:00**

**Father Charles Pottie, SJ. Facilitator**

**The price includes lunch. \$55/person**

**- more details to come**

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